All research has a fascination as a continuous chain of challenging problems, but to me the most fascinating is research on broad, vaguely defined problems that open ever new vistas into unexplored fields.

Our study of the changing world gave us an opportunity to appraise the place of the United States in the world of today and its contribution to current civilization. We felt the unprecedented concentration of wealth and the productive capacity of this country were not the real contributions of America to the modern world, such as the Declaration of Independence had been in the eighteenth century, or the open door for immigration and the example of a steadily expanding republican form of government in the nineteenth century. We were not impressed by the display of glittering hardware around us, reflected in our statistical tables and charts, and we knew too well that many of the material achievements of this country were rooted in the science, inventions, genius, and skills brought to America from the other side of the Atlantic.

More important to us was the country's psychological climate. Is not the new scale of values the true message of the United States to mankind? More and more we have gone back to our first impressions of the American way of life—equality, opportunity for all, respect for human dignity, respect for labor.

There were, however, too many things we wished to say in our books, and I fear they have not expressed these ideas clearly enough. But we have had ample opportunity to elaborate on this subject in more recent years.

EUROPE REVISITED

In the final phase of our work on *World Population and Production*, we undertook, in 1950, an extensive tour of Europe to get first-hand information on the impact of the war and the progress of reconstruction in Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and other West European countries.

Once more we saw Europe after a destructive war: scars of air bombardment in London; ruins in Rotterdam, Hamburg, and Cologne; ruins marking the roads of liberation in France and Italy; bitter resentment in Norway, with promises never to forget, never to forgive the enemy. . . . This was a sad picture. But Europe was beginning to recover from the terrible shock. Both the anguish and the hopes of Europe were close to us. We looked with nostalgic delight at the old cathedrals and walled towns, witnesses of the long history we missed in the United States. But we saw Europe also through American eyes, just as, fifteen years before, I had looked at the United States through